BAR HILL NEWS

October 2008 Issue 457

The Bar Hill News is also available on audio tape

If you, or someone you know would benefit from this free service, please contact Julie at Camsight 01223 420033

VILLAGE FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Wednesday 5th November 7 pm
On the Village Green
Bucket collection for Macmillan Cancer Charity

Copy date for the next issue is 15th October to Margaret Sellars at bhneditor@yahoo.com or see page 2 for other contact details.

BAR HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

07/08 Committee			
Chairman	Mr R Hall	780304	11 Almond Grove
Vice-Chairman	Mr M Avery	781233	34 Acorn Avenue
Secretary	Mr A Pallan	782779	72 The Spinney
Treasurer	Mr R Iyer	200910	56 Oatlands Avenue
Bar Hill News			
Editor	Mrs M Sellars	C/o Parish Council Office	
Advertising Co-Ordinator	Mrs B Waters	201421	77 Foxhollow
Distribution Co-ordinator	Mr M Avery	781233	34 Acorn Avenue

Also: E Wilmer, and Kirsten and Paul Goodfield (200228 15 Little Meadow)

The Objectives of the Association are to act as an intermediary between the Residents and other parties, to keep residents informed of matters of importance and recreation in and around the Village, and to promote the interests of Bar Hill. Opinions expressed in this publication and not necessarily those of the Association. **Anonymous letters will NOT be published, but names and addresses may be withheld.** However, these may be made available should a written request be received. This is a private publication and may not be reproduced in any way without the prior permission of the Bar Hill Residents' Association Committee.

ADVERTISING

All matters relating to advertising should be addressed to the Advertising Co-ordinator (see above – email to bunty.waters@ntlworld.com)

¼ page adverts cost £14.50 per month and must be submitted by the 1st of the month prior to inclusion.

Maxi ads (£8.25 per month) and Mini ads (price currently under review) should be submitted by 15th of the month prior to their inclusion.

The ¼ page ads are for local businesses and we guarantee publication. This often results in a waiting list and, to help overcome this problem, we provide maxi and mini ads. These appear throughout the publication and we cannot guarantee their inclusion due to restrictions of space.

EDITORIAL

There is no charge for **Articles, What's On, For Sale and Lost and Found,** and these appear at the Editor's discretion. Please submit items by 15th of the month.

All telephone numbers without an area code are Crafts Hill (01954).

All items can be submitted **electronically on disc or to bhneditor@yahoo.com.**

HEALTH CENTRE

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Psychiatric Nurse Wednesday, 2 pm onwards

Chiropody Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am – 12 noon, Thursday 2 - 5 pm

Dietitian 1st Tuesday of month, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Orthoptist 2nd Tuesday of month 9 am – 12.30 pm

CAMTAD 4th Tuesday of month, 9 -11.30 am

Child Health Clinic 1st Friday of month, 2 pm onwards

Health Visitors are now based at Longstanton Branch Surgery, Magdalene Close, Longstanton (tel 781855)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

● Church Office 206120 ● Conservative Party (Iris Lay) 205265 ● Happy Hours (Helen Collins) 782203 ● Liberal Democrat Party (Tom Flanagan) 780571 ● Library (renewals and enquiries) 0845 045 5225 ● Parish Council (Leigh Baffa) 780456 ● Police 0845 456 4564 ● Pre-School 782892 ● Samaritans 01223 364455 ● School 273305 ● Social Club 781881 ● Swavesey Village College 230366

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Dear Editor

When John Lucas wrote his first letter about the church building the members of Bar Hill Church Council decided not to respond, although kindly invited to by the editor. The replies printed were personal opinions from individuals. Now that Mr Lucas has questioned the sanctity of the church building, I feel that I must respond, as an individual and not as the holder of an office in the church.

Bricks and mortar themselves cannot be profane. A dictionary definition of a profane building is one not designed for religious purposes. Ivor Richards, a reputable architect, designed the building with the enthusiastic involvement of the minister, James Newcombe, who has since become a Church of England bishop. (The original, equally unusual, Octagon building was erected during the ministry of the late Hugo de Vaal, who also became a bishop.) Both buildings were consecrated. Members of the congregation made financial sacrifices to give Bar Hill the church building to witness to our Christian faith, to be a symbol of Christ's presence but also with the intention that it could have other community uses and not stand empty except on Sundays. Generous outside benefactors enabled it to be constructed in high quality modern materials, a traditional stone building would have been impossibly expensive.

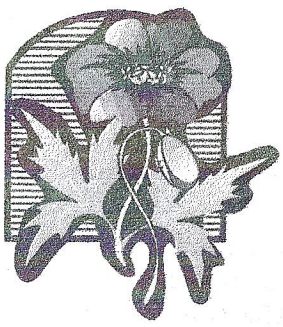
The fire station jibe has been levelled repeatedly since the building was new; a fire station does not have a cross on top. Many Christians pray facing the East but millions do not because God's spirit fills the whole Universe. Some of us like the building and some of us do not. It does not matter because it is the members who make the church and what they believe and do that is important.

Everyone is welcome at our services. I invite Mr Lucas to join us and discover that we do have proper services. Mr Lucas, if you give your address to the church office, I am sure someone will call and tell you about our church, which would be preferable to this dialogue in the Bar Hill News which is hurting feelings on both sides. If you need a traditional stone building to fulfil your spiritual needs then please go to one in Cambridge or a nearby village then, when you meet members of Bar Hill Ecumenical Church, we can greet each other as Christian brothers and sisters.

Jan Hewins

Dear Editor

As the time for the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** aproaches, I would like to ask for help with our collection outside Tesco's. If you have an hour or two to spare during the **first ten days of November** could you please ring Mr M Duce on 01954 204687.



M. Shubotham (Secretary)

Dear Editor

I would like to comment on Brian Webb's letter to the BHN and his lack of understanding as regards to what is within the Parish Council's power to do to try and alleviate the impact that HGV's are having on the village. As Margaret Sellars made clear about this, there is in reality very little the Parish Council can do except make representations to the relevant bodies with ideas, suggestions and complaints, which they have done to my personal knowledge for the past five years, and will continue to do so.

His remarks about the Parish Council having a "do nothing" attitude to this and other issues in the village are not only extremely offensive but well wide of the mark. I won't hold m breath for an apology.

As for his mistaken assumption that I have no knowledge of the problems that HGV's are causing, it would be fair to say that the Gladeside/Robin Close areas have had one of the more serious problems with HGV's as it is used as a lorry park at all times of the day.

I will not lower myself to reply to his unwarranted and inaccurate personal comments about me because not only do comments such as these have no place in discussions about serious issues affecting everybody in the village, but I am not into namecalling and mud-slinging – I left school a long time ago.

John Doland
Parish Councillor
Robin Close

Dear Editor

I was interested to read in the August issue of BHN that there are not enough stray trolleys in Bar Hill to warrant further action by Tesco to abate the nuisance. Can Tesco be asked to state the number required to cause them to deal with the problem to our satisfaction?

Keith Morris

Peggy Scarr and family would like to thank the many friends and neighbours in Bar Hill who were so kind and supportive all through Phil's illness, and for the many cards and expressions of condolence received when he passed away. Once again, thank you all.

Neil Scarr

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Interested residents are always welcome at our meetings which are normally held on the second Monday or Friday of the month at the Parish Offices at 8 pm. The next meeting will be on 13 October.

CRICKET CLUB

Some impressive late results ensured a wet season ended with both teams holding their own at higher levels after promotion last year.

The firsts ended with back-to-back wins as first Thurlow and then Cokenach were beaten on their own grounds.

Scott Stanford took 5 for 31 as Thurlow posted 130 for 8, then **Adam Dean's** unbeaten 48 and **Jim Neal's** 38 saw the visitors pass the target with six wickets in hand.

Against Cokenach, **Stanford** hit 84 as Bar Hill reached 198 for 6, and there were three wickets for **Dean** as the hosts were then restricted to 183 for 9 in reply.

The only defeat of the month was to promoted USSC, despite another four wickets for **Dean**.

The second team finished the season with a bang by bowling out Bluntisham II for only 24, with **Priyal Perera** taking 6 for 12 and **Martin Cullum** 3 for 11. **David Fletcher** earlier hit 37 not out in Bar Hill's total of 117 for 9.

However, there were defeats against Little Downham II and March IV, the latter despite more runs from **Fletcher** (47 not out) and **Paul Stimpson** (35) and three wickets each for **Tom Levitt** and **Neil Suckling**.

At the end-of-season awards night, the following presentations were made:

Clubman: Martin Cullum
First-team player of the season: Adam Dean
First-team batting award: Scott Stanford
First-team bowling award: David Rush
Second-team player: David Fletcher
Second-team batting: David Fletcher
Second-team bowling: Martin Cullum

Most improved player: Sam Clare
Under-15 player: Jack Clark
Under-15 batting: Sam Clare
Under-15 bowling: Matt Churchley
Under-14 player: Ryan Stevens
Under-14 batting: Sam Clare
Under-14 bowling: Sam Baker
Under-12 player: Matt O'Sullivan
Under-12 batting: Zak Gedny
Under-12 bowling: Nick Whyatt

The AGM will be held on Wednesday October 22 at 7.45 pm and details will be sent out to members shortly. There is also a quiz night pencilled in at the Social Club on Saturday November 8.

As ever, keep up to date with the latest news by visiting the club website, www.barhillcricket.org.uk

Paul Stimpson 782475

NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

Is an organisation for women who have lively and enquiring minds. Discussions are at the heart of over 400 groups country-wide, we also have quizzes and themed evenings. Members come away buzzing with ideas.

We meet informally and all women are welcome. Come and discover for yourself that conversation never dries up. We hold our meetings once a fortnight on a Thursday evening.

9th October Planning Meeting and a Spider's View of NWR Venue: Karen's
23rd October Crime Prevention – Advice from the Community Support Officer Venue: Marie Therese
13th November Treasure Trail Venue: D's

Bar Hill group welcomes women of all ages: we would love to see you— do give it a try – it's only £1.00 per evening to cover costs.

If you would like more information, or someone to accompany you to a meeting please do not hesitate to call Bobby Colver on 781662 or
Heather Wheeler on 781208. You can also find us on www.nwr.org.uk it's worth a look!

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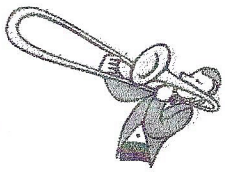

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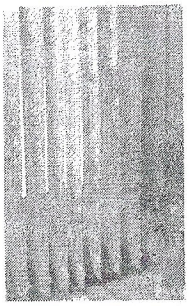

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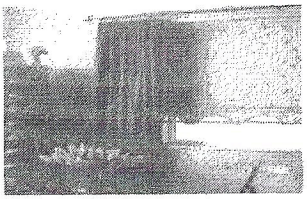

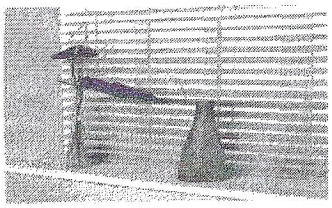

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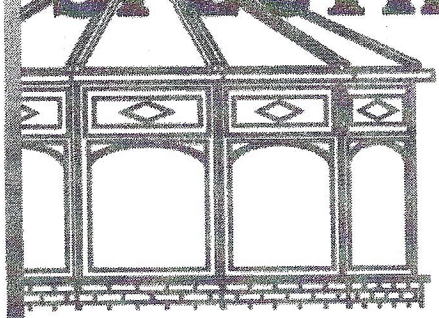

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Report by District Councillor Bunty Waters

SCDC Housing or Council Tax Benefit
Claiming benefits
Help with your rent and/or council tax?

Housing costs are a large part of most people's expenses. Whether you own your own home or rent you will probably have to pay council tax. If you do not own your home you will probably pay rent.

1. Housing Benefit can help towards your rent.
2. Council Tax Benefit can help towards your council tax.

Housing benefit cannot help towards day-to-day costs.

If your rent includes things like food, water charges, and personal laundry or heating (other than communal areas), these parts will not be included. It does not matter whether you pay rent to a private landlord or to this council. We want to make sure you and your family get the right help, at the right time, in the right way.

Are you on a low income and paying rent and/or council tax?

You may still be able to get benefit even if you are working. You could claim housing benefit and/or council tax benefit.

- If you have over £16,000 savings and investments you cannot normally apply for benefit unless you are aged 60 or over and receiving the guaranteed pension credit
- Savings over £6,000 will normally attract notional income that is added to your actual income when calculating your benefit entitlement.
- There are special housing benefit rules if you are single and aged under 25.
- Most asylum seekers and people who are sponsored to be in the UK cannot get housing benefit or council tax benefit
- If you live in a property where your landlord/ landlady is also resident and you are defined by legislation to be a close relative of your landlord/ lady, you cannot get housing benefit.
- You cannot usually get housing benefit if you are a full time student unless you are disabled or have children. As a student you will not usually have to pay council tax.

How housing and council tax benefit is worked out. We will look at:

- Money you and your partner have coming in, including earnings, some benefits and tax credits and things like occupational pensions
- Your savings and your partner's savings
- Your circumstances, such as your age, the ages and size of your family and whether anyone lives with you.

In the case of housing benefit we will also look at whether:

- The amount of rent is reasonable for your particular home
- Your home is a reasonable size for your family
- The amount of rent is reasonable for the area your home is in.

More information:

Second adult rebate

If you share your home with one adult (a person aged 18 or over) or more:

- who is not your partner
- does not pay council tax themselves
- is on a low income
- does not pay you rent on a commercial basis

you may be able to get help towards your council tax. This is called second adult rebate and is based on the other adult's circumstances. However you will have to make the claim.

Have you told the council that your circumstances have changed?

If you know someone who is claiming benefit fraudulently you can report this in confidence on the Fraud Hotline 0800 731 1892 or via the online benefits referral form.

Bunty Waters: Please contact me on 01954 201421 07734 690580 or bunty.waters@ntlworld.com

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FRIENDS OF BAR HILL LIBRARY

Annual meeting – Friends of the Library are invited to our annual meeting on **17 October at 7 pm** in the Library. There will be short reports on our activities during the last year, and the committee for next year will be appointed.

Reading Circle – Our popular Reading Circle has been running for more than two years. It meets in members' homes once a month and we discuss a wide range of books: classics, modern, comic, biography and travel. Members have extended their range of reading, learned from one another, made new friends and had a lot of fun. Others have asked to join, but we have no room. We aim to set up a second circle. **Ask at the Library desk for a form** to complete if you are interested, whether you have already given your name to staff or not.

Coffee morning – Our regular coffee morning will be held on **2 October 10 am – 12 noon.** Anyone will be most welcome.

Book Sale – The Friends will be holding a Book Sale in the Library **4 October 10 am – 12 noon.**

"The Galapagos Islands" – Dr Bill Block of the Antarctic Survey will be giving a talk on **14 October at 2 pm.** Tickets will be available in the Library. Bill's talks are always very popular and informative.

Sheila Mason

BAR HILL COLTS F.C

"Dalton's magnificent seven sets up victory" and "Jack's the lad as Hill scale heights" are just two headlines already in the Cambridge News, to show Bar Hill Colts are continuing their successes from last year.

Soham United 0-15 Bar Hill

Rob's under 11s played their first 11-a-side match and were quickly proving their training sessions were paying off as 9 goals were scored by half time. After the break they continued to push forward and were rewarded with a further 6 goals-9 different goal scorers who were:

Jack Humphreys (6), Thomas Edwards (2), Adam Cheesley, Matthew O'Sullivan, Christian Marin (penalty), Daniel Marsh, Ryan Davenport, Carlo Riccio, Jordan Waites.

Buckden Juniors 2-9 Bar Hill

Similarly, Darryn's Raiders showed their intentions for the season. **James Turner** opened the scoring, whilst at the other end some brave goalkeeping from **Zak Gedny** stopped several Buckden chances, before **Tommy Dalton** grabbed a hat-trick before half-time. Buckden scored a couple of goals in the second half but a well taken goal from **Adam Brown** and four more from **Tommy** gave the Raiders a comfortable win in the rain!

The U12s also made it to the final of the Cherry Hinton 11-a-side tournament on August 31, losing by a single goal in the final against Chelmsford City FC.

Under 8s First League Game

I witnessed Tim's Ravens trip to Caldecote and was delighted to see their effort and enthusiasm in their first league fixture. Goals from Harry Sargent and 2 from Jon Leggett were loudly cheered by the parents.

George and Will in Denmark

George Leland and **Will Blake** give their summary of the Football Development Tour to Biersted, Denmark with Southend United Football Club.

"On Monday 28 July (at 5am!) we flew to Dortmund in Germany, where we boarded a coach to drive us to Biersted in Denmark (which took 9 hours!). The purpose of the trip was to train in all aspects of the game and play in matches against local teams. George (captain of Bar Hill U14s) played in two matches for the U16s! They won both matches - 13-2 (George scoring 1) and 18-0 (George scoring 2). Will (goalkeeper for Bar Hill U14s) was one of 25 keepers to attend who were rotated during the matches. We trained every day for most of the day - it was really hard work but it taught us loads. We also got to visit Aalborg Football Stadium. We arrived back at Stansted at 11pm on Friday 1 August. It was a great week, we met loads of new friends and we are looking forward to next year's trip!"

George Leland & Will Blake

Milton 2-3- Bar Hill

After losing their first game in 14C 6-1 to Celtic Crusaders, this game saw the Bulldogs keen to record their first victory. However, we found ourselves 1-0 down after just two minutes though **Chester Cooke** scored soon after, Bar Hill beginning to apply pressure. A move practised in training came to fruition when **Joe Moore** flicked on a corner for **Jason Churchley** to bundle in the net through a forest of defenders. A fantastic driven shot from **Chester** was too good for the Milton keeper and flew into the net. **Will Blake** in goal played his part by making some excellent saves. After 52 minutes a dubious penalty made the score 3-2. A battling performance in the last 18 minutes saw the Bulldogs hold out for their first win in 14C knowing there were more tough games to come.

Fulbourn Falcons 1-2 Bar Hill

The Jets kicked off their season with a good win and an excellent performance against a strong Fulbourn side. Following the defeat the previous week in a pre-season friendly against Mildenhall, the team began the game with a high tempo and had the better of the early exchanges as they created several opportunities to score. Some strong tackles and excellent defending by Bar Hill matched Fulbourn's physical approach to the game. Despite the chances that were created, neither side was able to take advantage and went into the break 0-0.

Bar Hill continued from where they left off and a superb drive from **Jack Harris** from 22 yards caught their keeper completely stranded as the ball flew past him into the back of the net. Fulbourn came back strong and equalised midway through the second half. The competitive challenges continued throughout the second half and another opportunity was carved out for **Alex Erfan** to fire home the winning goal with a thunderbolt from 25 yards to complete a well deserved victory

Godmanchester 0-2 Bar Hill

After four straight wins in pre-season friendly matches, the Bandits were ready for the start of the new season. A physical game was expected, and it soon proved to be true. A scrappy first half ensued with no goals, although Godmanchester created the better chances. The second half started much the same, but despite the Bandits producing the better football, they were unable to penetrate the Godmanchester defence. With about 15 minutes to go however **Scott Wilson** burst clear but went down, the referee waved play on. A few moments later **Archie Lenton** went on a trail blazing run past four defenders, coolly slotting home the opening goal. With 5 minutes to go, **Scott** once again burst through, and rounded the keeper to send the crowd home happy with the 2-0 victory.

New under 10s Girls Team wanted

We are keen to start another girls team with a view to entering the league for NEXT season – so any girls in years 5 and 6 that may be interested in starting training THIS season should contact our club Secretary – Paul Neal on 01954 205076

BAR HILL COLTS IS A CHARTER STANDARD CLUB

Vicky x

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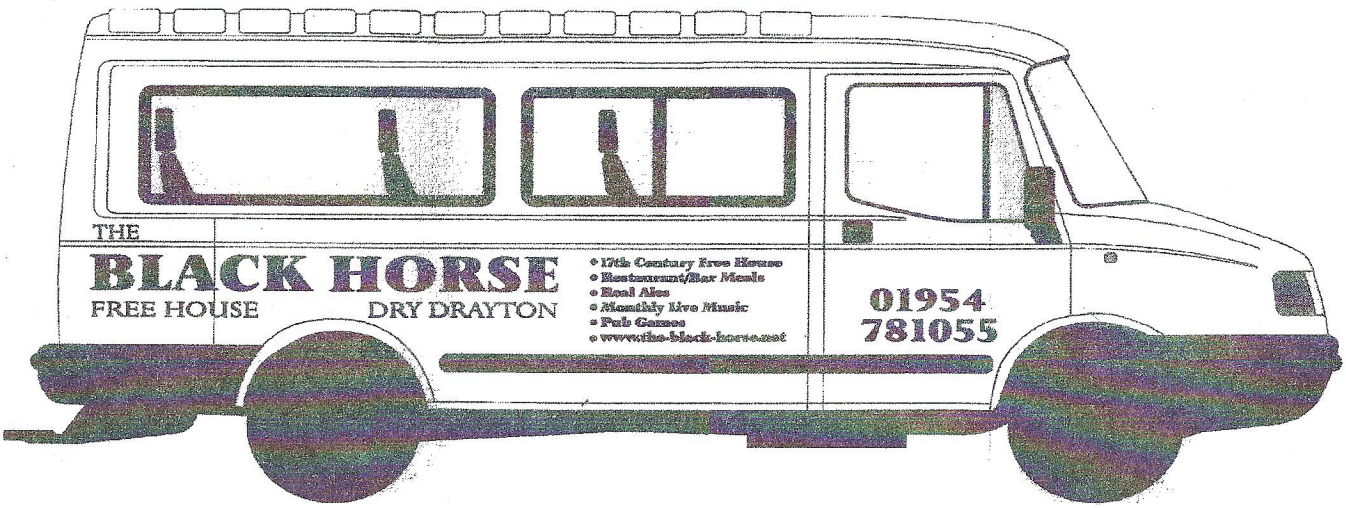

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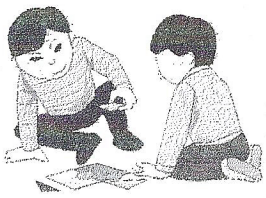
Football Project

The pitch is suitable for football and many other sporting activities such as mini tennis, hockey, bowls, volleyball and multi sports - it's a great venue for birthday parties. If you wish to find out more about hiring the facility then contact our Bookings Secretary, Julie Marin on 781838.

The officers of the Management Committee are:

Chairperson Alan Hewings
Secretary Paul Thorby
Treasurer Jairo Marin

Parent and Toddler Group



Bar Hill parent and toddler group is a welcoming and friendly charity group run by a committee of parents to provide play and socialising for children (and parents) from 0-4 years of age. The sessions run Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.45 to 11.15 am during term time and are held in the Octagon. Both sessions provide a wide range of activities which include arts and crafts, puzzles, dressing up, role play and a wide range of outdoor toys (weather permitting).

The cost of each session is £1.90 for the first child and £1.00 per sibling up to a maximum of £3.00 per family or childminder. Under ones are free if accompanied by an older child. This fee includes refreshments for both parent/carer and children.

For any more info' please call Hanna on 200232 or Lisa on 201902.

weight watchers @ bar hill

MONDAY 6—7 PM
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BIN COLLECTION DATES

1 October	Green bin and box
8 October	Black bin
15 October	Green bin and box
22 October	Black bin
29 October	Green bin and box
5 November	Black bin

District Councillor Roger Hall's Report

Housing Transfer

I am afraid John Doland misunderstands the point I was trying to make with regard to the possible future of South Cambs District Council's housing stock. He is quite right in stating that a transfer can take place only if the tenants themselves are in favour. A vote, to this effect, will probably take place early next year. The Council, however, at a recent meeting, decided only on the type of housing association which it will put to the vote. Tenants will then be able to choose between this (a stand-alone housing association, specifically for South Cambridgeshire, and manned, in the main, by the existing officers, thus ensuring continuity) and retaining the houses in council ownership with the cuts in services that this will entail.

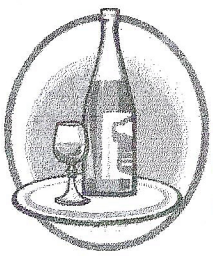
Rogue Traders

Now that evenings are drawing in and the ravages of wind and weather on gardens increase, the South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Partnership has been drawing attention to the fact that the activities of 'rogue traders' are becoming more rampant. Residents are warned to insist on identification and make sure (if necessary by phoning the police or trading standards) that this is *bona fide;* never purchase goods or enter into a contract, verbal or otherwise, at the door; never have large amounts of cash in the house; and use a door chain, especially after dark

Planning consent for rear extensions

The Government has announced that, from October, householders will be able to extend their homes without applying for planning permission providing this reaches no more than 3 metres from the property and no more than 50 cubic metres in size. Loft conversions will also be allowed without planning consent providing they reach no more than 20 centimetres from the eaves and do not exceed 50 cubic metres. Householders will still have to demonstrate that these are constructed to health and safety standards. In certain cases, councils will have the power to vary the rules. On the other hand, permission will have to be sought if householders wish to lay down more than five square metres of asphalt or other impermeable materials in their front or rear gardens. This is to cut down the amount of water flowing into drains during periods of heavy rainfall.

Roger Hall



Sports and Social Club

For up to date information on what's happening at the Social Club visit www.bhssc.org.uk or ring 01954 781881

REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS

BAR HILL CHILDREN IN READING CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Bar Hill library has again taken part in this year's annual children's Reading Challenge. This year it was called Team Read as it had a sports theme to coincide with the Olympics. Lots of children have taking part during the summer holidays and enthusiastically telling us about the books they've read, collecting their stickers and enjoying special activities. My congratulations to children who finished the Challenge and received medals and certificates last month.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

A new Strategy for Alcohol Harm Reduction for Cambridgeshire has been prepared with partner organisations, including the Primary Care Trust (PCT), Police, Probation and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. The strategy covers a period of three years and is supported by a detailed and comprehensive action plan. The County is a key player in the commissioning of alcohol services with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team; this has been reflected in the strategy and the supporting action plan.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE HITS RECORD HIGH

Recycling and composting rates for Cambridgeshire have hit a record high after the latest annual figures show that more than 50 per cent of rubbish was kept out of landfill. This is a brilliant achievement and is down to residents recycling and composting their rubbish as well as the good work of all the local authorities. (Government claims millions of pounds in tax for the tonnes of rubbish that end up in landfill and will fine authorities for going over strict limits.).

John Reynolds

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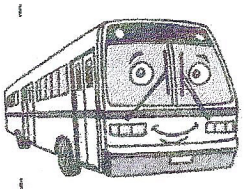

Where shall we go today?
A day out in Bury St Edmunds

Leave Bar Hill at 10.05 on the City 5 to Drummer Street, cross the road into bus station to catch number 11 service. This leaves at 10.45 then every hour throughout the day and takes just over an hour to travel to Bury St Edmunds, which grew up around the powerful Abbey in early medieval times. For five centuries pilgrims from around the world come to worship at the shrine of St Edmund the martyred King of East Anglia.

The journey is interesting: it leaves Cambridge along Newmarket Road, past Marshall airport giving good views of aircraft. Travellers can then begin to enjoy the open countryside of South Cambridgeshire as the bus follows close to the A14 via Quy and up nine-mile hill, crossing the A14 where it meets the A11. On towards Newmarket past the entrance of the National Stud, which is open to the public. Onwards with views to the left of both the July and Rowley Mile racecourses. On the right can be seen the remains of the original course with its stable blocks and stand railing this is now a golf course.

The bus arrives at Newmarket and weaves its way through the town before crossing the open gallops where many strings of race horses can be seen exercising. The route includes stops at Kentford, which has some attractive houses before joining the main A14 road to Bury St Edmunds.

We alight at the main bus station; it's only a few steps into the shopping area with narrow streets, many small local shops and national retailers. There are a variety of teashops and restaurants so there is plenty to sustain the traveller. Wednesday is market day with many varied and colourful stalls. The Tourist Information Office is in Angel Hill opposite the Abbey ruins: it can provide free maps and details of the wide range of attractions in the town including, Abbey ruins and gardens, Green King brewery tours. The town trail will take you on a fascinating journey through the town seeing many historical buildings.

The bus returns to Cambridge from the main bus station at 15 minutes past every hour.

NB The time of this outing applies Monday to Friday. Travel on Saturday can start earlier from Bar Hill.

Next time "Where Shall We Go?" visits Wisbech.

PS From April this year, over 60's have had the opportunity to travel free on scheduled bus services after 9.30 Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and Bank Holidays, if they hold a free concessionary pass.

This is just one of many enjoyable days out people can have using their concessionary pass on public transport.

John Reynolds

Fitness Classes for All!!!!

The Fitness Class
Bar Hill Church Mondays 7.30-8.30pm
Oakington School Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm

Box Fit
Oakington Sports Pavilion
Wednesdays 7.45pm to 8.45pm

Over 55s Fitness Class
Bar Hill Church Tuesdays 10-11am
Oakington Sports Pavilion Fridays 10-11am

£4 per session(£2.75 for over 55s) or
£32 for 10 sessions(£24 for Over 55s)

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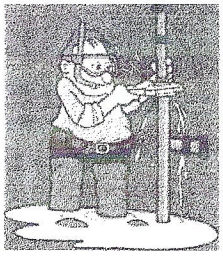

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First Plastic Bottle Collections (6 - 17 October)

Collection of plastic bottles will take place from the week commencing **Monday 6 October** as per existing green box collection schedule. By Friday 17 October every household will have received a plastic bottle collection as part of the green box scheme. Collection days will not change but collection times may change due to collection round re-scheduling. Residents will have been advised that green boxes should be placed out for collection on their normal collection day by 7 am to ensure that their green box(es) containing paper, glass, cans and plastic bottles is collected. Please read your South Cambs News to find further information.

Waste and recycling collection arrangements for Christmas and New Year 2008/2009

As part of our continuing drive to improve services to our residents, the Council has reviewed and revised its operating schedule for waste collection over the 2008/2009 Christmas and New Year period. Over the festive period, collection of domestic refuse and recycling will be as normal, with adjustments for the bank holidays as follows:

- collections as normal up and including, Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 Dec
- collections which would normally fall on Thursday 25 December, (Christmas Day), will be brought forward and will now take place on Saturday 20 December
- collections which would normally fall on Friday 26 December will take place on Saturday 27 December
- collections as normal on 29,30 and 31 December.
- collections which would normally fall on Thursday 1 January, (New Year's Day), will take place on Friday 2 January
- collections which would normally fall on Friday 2 January will take place on Saturday 3 January

collections as normal from Monday 5 January 2009.

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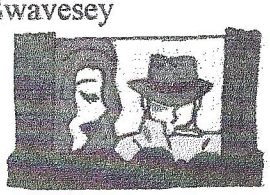
WHAT'S ON?

2nd	Coffee morning – Library
4th	Book Sale - Library
9th	NWR – A Spider's View
2nd	8 o'clock Club
11th	School Fête
14th	Galapagos Islands – Library
17th	AGM Friends of the Library
18th	1940's Charity Dance (Over)
22nd	AGM Cricket Club
23rd	NWR – Crime Prevention
23rd	AGM Royal British Legion
24th	"Tomb with a View" – Swavesey
25th	ditto

Mondays Weightwatchers



Bar Hill Childminders

Thinking of going back to work or fancy some 'me' time? Then why not leave your child in a friendly family environment with a childminder who is registered with Ofsted, is an NCMA member and fully insured. We offer a wide range of activities including trips to parks and toddler groups, crafts, music, stories, cookery and much more!

Come and meet us at **Coffee and Kids** in the Octagon on Thursdays between 10.00 am and 11.30 am for a coffee and a chat.

Childminders with current vacancies are:-

Melanie	Call for more details	204496
Terri	Part Time	780458
Karen	Part Time 0-5 and before/after school 781151	
Sharon	Full and Part Time	07800935263
Jacky	Part Time	780249
Kirsten	Full and Part-Time (0-5 and 5-8) 200228	

Coffee and Kids

Run by Bar Hill Childminders for parents/carers/ childminders of babies and pre-school children. Come and join us on Thursdays (term time only) in the Octagon (Church buildings) from 10 am – 11.30 am. £1.80 per adult. Price includes coffee/tea/hot chocolate for adults, soft drinks and healthy snacks for children. We have a large range of indoor and outdoor toys and a safe soft play area for babies. Call Debbie on 201739 for more details.

Little Acorns Pre-school.

We are now settling in to our lovely new home. Our open days were a huge success and everyone seemed to really enjoy having a look round. It was lovely to see so many people and we received positive feedback from everyone. We would also like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with the move.

Our Pre-school

Little Acorns is situated in the SPARC building next door to the primary school. We are open every day, both morning and afternoon. A lunch club session is also available each day. Our opening times are 9-11.30 am and 12.30- 3 pm. Children may attend from their second birthdays.

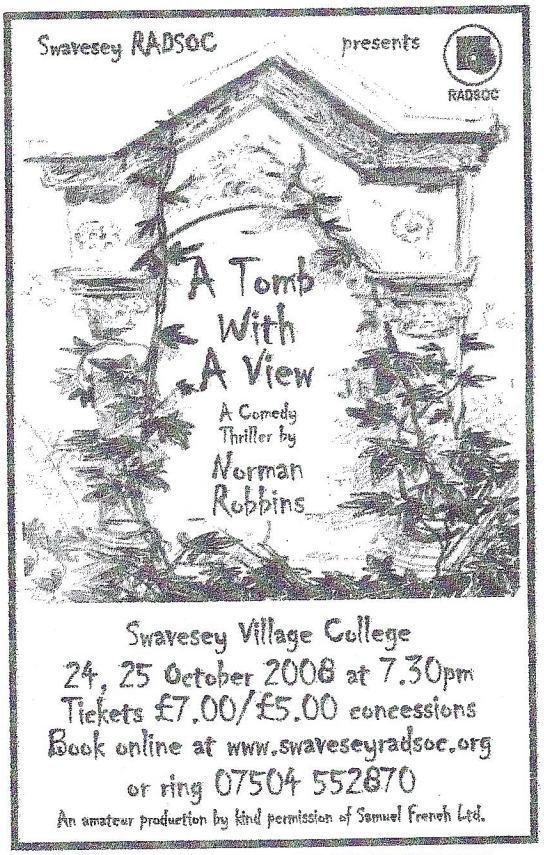
We provide a variety of learning experiences, both indoor and out. Children are encouraged to be creative, and to explore and investigate the things in their world. All of our staff hold a childcare qualification and are trained in first aid and child protection.

We offer a 'places for all' policy. Every year we offer free or subsidised places to a number of families. If you feel that you would like to speak to us about this, we would love to hear from you. Please phone Sally on 201074 or drop in anytime. If you would like to book sessions please ring Gail on 203229 or on our pre-school number 07851803083.

We will be holding regular open days at the start of each term for our new starters (who will receive an invitation nearer the time). If you are interested in coming to look around too, please phone us to book your place, or if you would like us to send you some information and a registration form. Alternatively you may prefer to e-mail us at s.gedny@ntlworld.com

Hiring the rooms

The pre-school room is available to hire for parties and functions. The current charge is £7.50 per hour (a minimum charge applies). Booking forms are available in the lobby area or by calling Janine on 07879613731.



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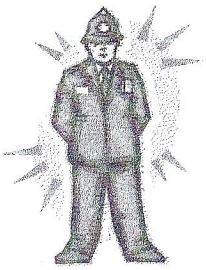
MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE—VEHICLE CRIME



Unfortunately there has been another spate of vehicles being stolen and broken into in the area over the past week. Please find below some helpful hints and tips to keeping your vehicles safe and secure. Please don't hesitate to contact us on 0845 456 456 4 if you have any information to help us catch these criminals.

Remove the temptation

Never leave anything on display in your car; even an old coat on the back seat is an invitation to a potential thief.

On icy mornings, never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running to warm it up or defrost the windows.

At home, always keep your car keys in a safe place, which is out of sight and away from windows and doors. Arrange to have your car registration number etched onto all glass surfaces, including your headlamps or the last seven digits of your Vehicle identification Number (VIN). You can also register valuables on www.immobilise.com for free

Sat Navs

Never leave your sat nav/holder on show: always take it with you and never leave it in the vehicle. Sometimes the holder will leave a ring mark on the windscreen: always wipe it off as it gives thieves an idea that there maybe a sat nav in the vehicle.

If you have any information regarding criminal activity particularly in relation to vehicle crime you can call your local police or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

PCSO *Karen Mahoney* 7238

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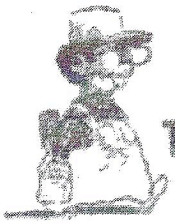

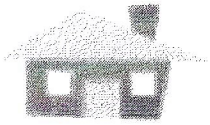

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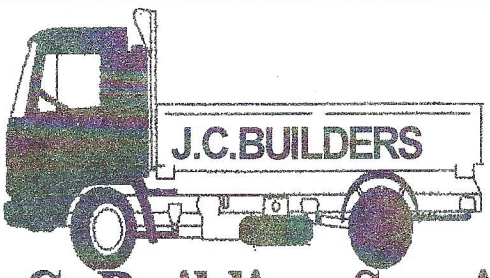

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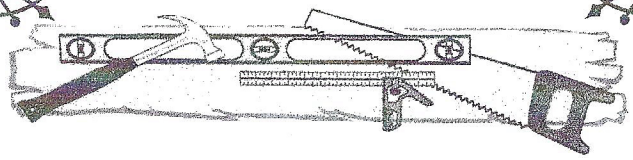

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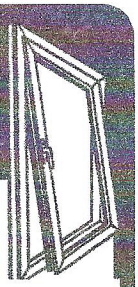

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T	I	M	U	L	T	O	U	S
P	R	A	W	N	A	Q	H	I
T	E	A	M	J	S	E	N	D
I	T	M	A	E	R	B	I	N
A	S	I	T	R	I	B	L	E
A	Y	R	I	K	N	I	T	V
L	O	N	Z	I	N	G	E	L
F	G	O	X	N	A	R	A	C

The 26 letters of the alphabet appear at least once in the names of 9 fish. Can you find them? Reading forwards, backwards, vertically or obliquely.

ANAGRAM
INEPT HOLD

Did you get the answers to September's wordsearch?

Bulldozer, Caravan, Dodgem, Float, Jalopy, Kibitka, Palanquin, Rickshaw and Taxi

Anagram: Dormabile

Autumn/Winter burglary advice

Normally when the clocks change and the darker nights arrive there is an upturn in dwelling burglaries. Thieves tend to use the darker nights to commit offences as they know the darkness will provide them with increased opportunities to offend. Residents should consider outside lighting that is triggered by movement and always place a security chain on when answering the door. Burglars do tend to knock doors to see if they get any answer before breaking in.

Remember to keep sheds and garages locked as burglars will use tools from these locations to force doors and windows. Burglars can also be quite brazen and will try doors to properties at night time hoping to find the door unlocked so remember to lock downstairs windows and doors. If you are going to be out consider leaving a light on or having lights on a timer.

Some burglars are now claiming to be Police Officers. Their plan is always to disconcert the home owner by claiming that there is an emergency. Always remember to ask for identification before letting anyone into your home. **NO ID NO ENTRY.**

8 o'clock Club

The 8 o'clock club meets on the first Thursday of each month in the small hall at the school during term time. As the name suggests we meet at 8 pm. We are not affiliated to any other women's groups and would welcome new members. At our meetings we usually have a speaker but we do try to vary this by going out for meals and having a garden party.

2 October – history and wildlife from Earith to Houghton

If you would like to come along to one of our meetings please join us in the school or phone Barbara on 204171.

Advance Warning

Plans are already under way for the **2009 Fête.**

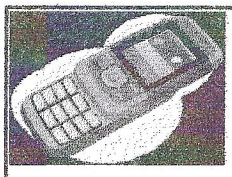
The theme will be '**International/Multi-cultural**. We are **appealing for help** to organise this. We hope to offer a range of different cultural experiences from food to music and dance, and everything in-between!! **If you are willing to help or have any contacts that you can give us please contact us on the email address below.**

We are also planning a '**Photographic Display**'. This will be held in the Village Hall during the afternoon. There will be a number of different categories and age groups. We are still planning the categories and are **open to suggestions**. We are also hoping for help in the organisation of the display. It will be open to anyone and everyone. If you are **interested in helping** with the organisation or want to **suggest a category**, please email us at the address below.

We would also like to hold a **fruit and vegetable competition.** We need **someone to organise** this section of the Fete. **Again if you are willing and able to help or want more information about the Fete 2009 and our plans please email barhillfete@hotmail.com.**

LOST

Keys in the Watermead area. If found please take to the Post Office.



LOST

HAVE YOU LOST A MOBILE PHONE ???

FOUND IN THE SPINNEY 16TH JULY

PHONE 200238 IF YOU THINK THIS BELONGS TO YOU

Bar Hill Parish Council
Parish Council Offices
(Near the Health Centre and Octagon)
Tel: 780456
Email: bhillpc-1@btconnect.com

Parish Council Web Site – www.barhillpc.org.uk.
This will keep you up to date on current affairs in the village including meeting minutes and agenda.

For all you regular walkers out there
The County Council has produced a Countryside Access Map entitled "Walks and Rides around the Northstowe Hundred". A very interesting history of the local countryside and lots of pleasant walks and bike rides for you enthusiasts. If you would like a map please call in to the office as I have been given a substantial supply.

Litter Picking
The Parish Council would like to send out a big thank you to all those residents who steadfastly litter-pick around the village, in all weather, to help keep this village tidy. They are our unsung heroes and it is greatly appreciated.

Police Surgery
Karen Mahoney, our PCSO, is holding police surgeries in the Parish Council Office every third Wednesday in the month between 10 am and 12 noon. If you have any issues you would like to raise with the Police please come along and see her. No appointment necessary.

Parish Council Meetings
The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 16th October at 7 pm in the Parish Council Office and all members of the public are welcome to attend.

HANDY TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Streetlights: 0800 253529 give the CC No. (written on post).
South Cambs District Council: (01223) 443000
Dog Fouling (01223) 443012.
County Council (damaged paths and roads): (01223) 717111
Leigh Baffa
Parish Clerk
Tel: 01954 780456
Email: bhillpc-1@btconnect.com

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Members please note that the AGM. will be on the **23rd October at 8 pm** in the Octagon.
I have been asked to find out if the people canvassing for a R.B.L. Lottery are genuine. The answer is YES. The scheme is being tried in a couple of areas and if successful will be rolled out nationwide.
New members are always welcome at our meetings.
The qualifications are:- a serving or ex-service person or somebody that has the aims of he R.B.L. at heart.
We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Octagon at 8 pm.
Mary Shubotham (Secretary) 781553.

Bar Hill THE PLAYSTATION Out of School Club

SPARC Building, Gladeside
Tel: 07883 739368 during Club hours

We are situated in a purpose built building next to the School, with direct access from the playground. We provide Childcare for children aged 4-11 in a safe and caring home-from-home environment, with trained and experienced staff.
Our sessions provide the children with a wide range of activities from pool to computer games, dressing up to craft, and lots more or, if they wish, they can chill out on our comfy sofas. We can also use the safe environment of the school playground for outdoor activities.
During the holidays we have themed activities, which the children are involved in choosing, as they are with many other issues, such as outings etc – as it is their Club, they even chose its name. The children are given a snack, such as pasta or filled pittas, followed by a biscuit and fresh fruit. We also make birthday cakes to celebrate each child's birthday, which are shared.
We are registered with OFSTED, and we accept employers' childcare vouchers.

Session Times
After School 3.10 pm – 6 pm Monday – Friday
School Holidays 8.15 am – 6 pm Monday – Friday
Closed on Bank Holidays

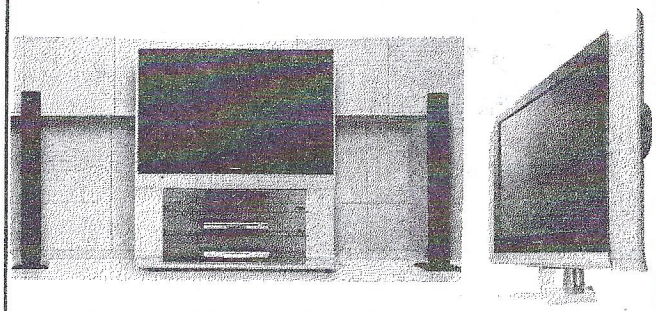
Hiring
These rooms are now available for hire to the community, at the discretion of the Committee. If you would like to hire The Playstation rooms please contact Patsie on 201079. If you would like to hire the pre-school room please contact Janine Swanser on 203095 or 07851803083. The kitchen and garden areas may also be hired out for an additional charge.
The current charges are:

	Charge/hour	Fixed price
Little Acorns main room	£7.50	
Playstation main room	£7.50	
Kitchen		£10
Garden		£10

There is a minimum hire charge of £25.

We currently have some vacancies, both after school and during the holidays. If you would like more information, an information pack or to arrange a visit, call Patsie on 201079 or 07921 541549.

Patsie Ostler
Bar Hill Out Of School Club



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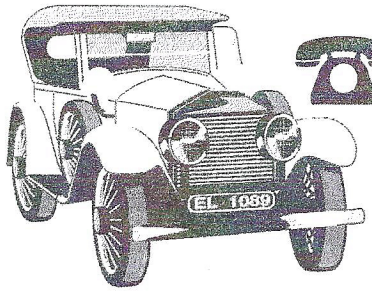
I am fully insured, police checked and have grown up with dogs all my life. Holly, our beautiful golden Labrador puppy, now 9 months old, loves to play with new friends.

Rest assured that your dog will have at least two long walks a day either at the heath nearby to our home, or in the fields surrounding our village. We also utilise on a daily basis on local village recreation ground and play ball games there.

Should you require any further details please do not hesitate to call Amanda Bishop on 07903806750



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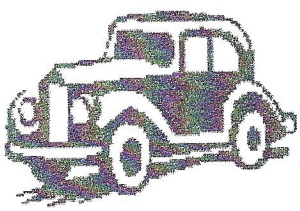

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Bar Hill Pre-School

NOW REGISTERED FOR FULL DAY CARE

The pre-school is now running concurrently from our purpose built building attached to the Village Hall and also the Church centre. The Church centre setting offers full day care from 9-3 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday morning 9-11.30; with the afternoon, 12.30-3, being reserved for children in the year prior to commencing school. Friday, from 9-3, is also reserved for children in the year prior to commencing school. Lunch club is offered daily from 11.30-12.30.

We currently have some vacancies available in both settings. If you are interested in your child attending the pre-school, or want more information, please contact us on (01954) 782892, or pop in to see us. Alternatively, contact Sarah our session allocation co-ordinator on (01954) 781871 before 7 pm weekdays.

STAYING SAFE

As the nights are starting to draw in again I thought a few tips would help you to stay safe whilst you're out and about.

Think ahead and plan your journey, avoiding deserted areas. Try to avoid walking alone at night, and keep to well-lit main roads where possible. You should try to avoid short cuts like alleyways, waste ground and wooded, bushy areas.

Stay alert: be aware of what's going on around you. It is always worth letting someone know where you are going, the route you intend to take and when you expect to return. Consider investing in a mobile phone. There are various services available for light users.

Try to avoid wearing headphones - your ability to hear traffic, strangers or potential trouble is severely restricted.

In an emergency dial 999

PCSO *Karen Mahoney* 7238

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West Street, Comberton
CB23 7DU

Bar Hill Pre-School

NOW REGISTERED FOR FULL DAY CARE

Our new purpose built Pre-School attached to the Village Hall has bright and airy rooms and a large fully enclosed garden, providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2 - 5 years.

The aim of Bar Hill Pre-School is to provide high quality care and education by focusing on each individual child's ability, encouraging their development through Birth to Three matters and progressing to the foundation stage curriculum.

Our main emphasis is learning through play.

Your child will be able to explore a variety of activities in an educational setting required by OFSTED. Our experienced, qualified Early Years team Sonya, Karen, Sarah, Pauline, Jacqui, Emma, Clare and Claire supervise our sessions.

Our Key worker system enables the early years team to meet the needs of each individual child through planning their own individual educational plan and next steps.

Subsidised places

We offer reduced sessions rates for parents/carers on Income Support/Working tax credit. We also accept child care vouchers from your employer.

Early Years Funding

We can offer 5 free sessions when your child is eligible, currently the term after their 3rd birthday.

Play Tots Session

9.15 - 10.45 Tuesday

This is our session for babies to Pre-School with Emma our Birth to Three Co-ordinator. We have lots of fun and a large selection of activities, including our new soft play den and toys especially for the tots. Sessions are held on a pay as you play basis. Drinks and healthy snacks are provided.

Rising 5's session

This session is for children in their final year at Pre-School. This is a more structured session preparing them for school entry.

Session Times

Monday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Tuesday	Play tots	12.30 - 3.00
Wed	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Thursday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00
Friday	9.00 - 11.30	12.30 - 3.00 (rising fives)

We offer a lunch club 11.30 - 12.30 daily

For more information please contact the Pre-School direct on (01954) 782892 during session times or feel free to pop in and see us.

Alternatively contact Sarah our session allocation Co-ordinator on (01954) 781871 before 7 pm weekdays.

Please note we are currently taking applications for 2008/09 entry

Registered Charity No. 1030725

Bar Hill School's 40th Birthday Celebration

As many of you will know, Bar Hill School will be celebrating 40 successful years on the weekend of Friday, 10th and Saturday, 11th October 2008.

We will be inviting the first headteacher, Mr Bill Norton, back to our celebrations and he will be taking a special assembly on the Friday as well as opening our school fête on the Saturday and being our guest of honour. It may be interesting for you to note that there have only been three headteachers since the school opened 40 years ago – Bill Norton, Roger Kilsby and myself. As you know I was a newly qualified teacher under the leadership of Bill from 1974 to 1977 and returned in January 1997 to become the third headteacher!

We would dearly love to trace other staff and pupils who were in Bar Hill School when it first opened in Autumn 1968 so we can invite them to the festivities. **If you know of any of these people, please can you ask them to contact us at school on 273305.**

We are also having a photograph display of past school pictures and events. If you have any that you would be willing to let us borrow, please ensure your name and address is on the back of the photos so we can return them to you.

We hope you will help us celebrate at our school fête which will open at 12.00 noon and will mainly be within the school. There will be a range of stalls and games, a barbecue, a bar and 'Bar Hill's Got Talent'. You will also have the opportunity to view the photographs, look at the children's work and enjoy the children singing and dancing.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Lin Whyte
Headteacher

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Bar Hill School—Autumn News

We have had a good start to the term and I am delighted with how well the reception children have settled into school life. We are grateful to the playgroups for their support and the work they have undertaken to prepare the children.

We said farewell to our deputy headteacher Mrs Judith Dickson in July as she has been appointed headteacher of Meldreth Primary School. In September we welcomed Mr Sanjay Mistry as our new deputy headteacher and Year 5/6 classroom teacher.

We were excited to learn that we were successful in our bid to gain a British Council Award and have been allocated **17,000euro to develop educational links with a school in Hungary and Germany.** This follows a very successful visit by eight children, their parents, and three members of staff to Hertzberg in August as part of our Springboard Into Language programme. Some of you may know we teach Esperanto in Years 2, 3, and 4 as part of our modern foreign language teaching. This is the first time children in Bar Hill School have taken a trip abroad and as a result we will be hosting a return visit in April.

We were also delighted to **gain the Eco Bronze Award for all environmental work.** This is due to the magnificent effort of our working party which comprises pupils, parents, staff and governors. A very successful part of our work is the development of our school's vegetable garden, the produce of which is eaten in our school meals.

Thank you for continuing to support our school and for all the Tesco Computer and Sports vouchers we receive from you. **We are looking for volunteers to help children with their reading.** If you are interested, we will be running a two-day course in November and do get in touch with us at school for more details.

Best wishes
Lin Whyte
Headteacher

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Bar Hill Village Hall

NEW CLASS STARTING SAT 16th FEB
8-9am
Meeting outside Bar Hill Village Hall
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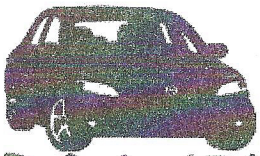
CROWN DRIVING TUITION



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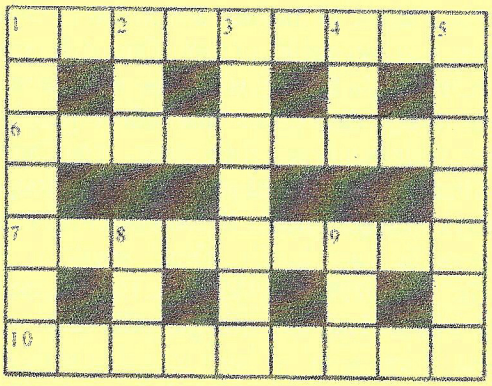
Answers for September

Across 1. salvation. 6. librarian. 7. essential. 10. irritants.
Down 1. salieri. 2.lob. 3. against. 4. ici. 5. nonplus. 8. sir. 9. ion.



Clues for October

Across 1.Thames tunnel. 6. instinctive understanding. 7. relating to heredity. 10. a cheese with herbs.

Down 1. forthcoming charity walk. 2. insect. 3. type of garment manufacture. 4. French friend. 5. local mp. 8. poor quality steed. 9. private vehicle

Bar Hill Ecumenical Church -
Services for September 2008

A modern church for a modern village. Please join us on a Sunday to find out what happens inside; you will be made very welcome.

Sun 5th	10.00 am	Family Communion: *Moses*
	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer
Sun 12th	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Quaker Service
	6.30 pm	Evening Worship with music: *Moses*
Sun 19th	10.00 am	Holy Communion: *Joshua*
	6.30 pm	Creative Prayer
Wed 22nd	10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sun 26th	10.00 am	All-age Worship: *Judges*
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion

There is also a Roman Catholic Mass on Saturday evening at 6.00 pm

People to contact:

The Minister	Rev Ruth Adams	Tel: 78936
Church Centre Manager	Helen Cook	Tel/Fax: 206120

Website—www.barhillchurch.com

The Catholic Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs
Hills Road, Cambridge
(The Catholic Church serving Bar Hill)

Parish Priest:	Mgr Tony Rogers	Tel: 01223 350787
Deacons:	Revd Robert Joyce, Tony Northrop and Tony Sutton	
Local contact:	Bunty Waters	Tel: 201421

Mass at Bar Hill Church Centre **Saturdays: 6 pm First Mass of Sunday**

Masses in the Parish Church in Cambridge

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	8 am and 12.15 pm
Tuesday	8 am and 7.30 pm
Saturday	6 pm First Mass of Sundays

Also 5 pm at The Ark, Cambourne, and 6 pm at Bar Hill Church Centre

Holydays of Obligation 8 am, 10 am, 7.30 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday	6.45 pm (not after Mass)
Saturday	10.30 – 11.15 am, 4.30 – 5.15 pm, 7 – 7.45 pm

Details of other services are published in the weekly newsletter which is available at the 6 pm Mass each Saturday – copies are available in the Church Centre.

Delia's Cakes
For all occasions

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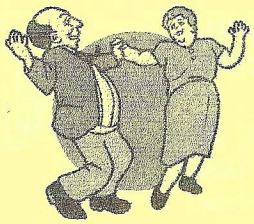
MESSAGE TO SKATE-BOARDERS

The Parish Council received your emails asking for the skate ramp to be repaired. It is dangerous, as some of you pointed out, and it has got to be put out of action—please don't use it. The Parish Council is looking at ways to replace it with something more hard wearing than wood, and has asked for quotations. Watch this space for the decision.



Happy Hours

The recycled youth club

Many of our members have passed favourable comment on the layout and contents of the Bar Hill News, including from time to time the photographs that also appear. Also for the fact that the magazine is being produced on time, and is being delivered to all households in the village at the beginning of each month. I have been asked to compliment the Editor, Mrs Margaret Sellars, on what she has achieved over the past twelve months. Also her willing team of helpers, who diligently spend many hours of their own time in producing and delivering the magazine. Well done, you all deserve the thanks of the readers.

Outings Our outing for September is being held on Wednesday 17th, when we will be having a mystery trip out, stopping at a pub for an arranged lunch, and then visiting a Garden Centre with plenty of spending time.

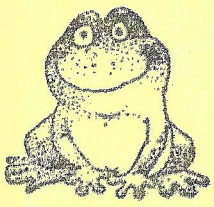
Holidays This year's Tinsel and Turkey holiday is to Llandudno where we will be able to enjoy the delights of North Wales, at the end of November. Looking forward to the New Year, we will be holding our Valentine's Break at the Royal Renaissance Hotel in Skegness in mid February. They tell me that Skegness is a very bracing resort during February.

Speakers On Monday 8th September, we had a very interesting talk from Wendy Dunn, who is the Senior Outreach Worker for the South Cambridgeshire Alzheimer's Society. Many people, as they reach old age, begin to suffer form dementia, or Alzheimer's disease, and it is only in very recent years that action is being taken to accept this disease and to give clinical support. It was only in 2007, that the Care Services Minister, set up a twelve month work programme to develop a National Strategy for dementia, with three themes, to increase awareness of dementia, early diagnosis and quality of care. One of the key aims of the Alzheimer's Society is to raise awareness of the real and every day issues that affect people with dementia, their family and their carers. The Cambridge & Ely Branch is connected to many local groups who are always willing to help. If you need help or advice for anyone in your family, please speak to Wendy Dunn, Tel. No. 07799 895556, or Jo Hughes, on 07766 058767, who are only too willing to offer help.

Sickness I am sorry to have to tell you that Betty Porter, who was recently on holiday at Eastbourne, had a nasty fall causing two fractures of her arm. Although in hospital for three days in Eastbourne, she was discharged in time to catch the coach back home. Betty has not been able to attend the Club since her return, but we wish her well, and hope she will soon be back with us.

Dennis Holt
780948

(Thanks for the kind comments about the Bar Hill News – it is indeed very much a team effort – Margaret)



'Nature Notes from Norfolk'

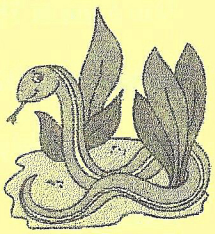
Raindrops keep falling on my head … well they do this summer: bring back the long summers of my childhood.

I've been spending some time recently in Norfolk and visiting the Waveney Forest, which is soon to be flattened of all its trees and quarried for its sand to build the homes and roads of the future, so they'll be cutting down a forest to make way for new roads: crazy I hear you say … yes, it certainly is.

Back to the forest, unfortunately, it's a coniferous forest as against deciduous (meaning its leaves fall from its branches every year) and there doesn't seem to be the same abundance of wildlife in a pine forest.

However, I have seen a few exciting things this year, I have spent some time watching, and filing, the Common or Vivaporous Lizard, which will bask (sunbathe) in the morning sunshine to warm up enough to get going properly.

I also saw a Smooth Snake basking (the first one I've ever seen) and the crowning glory … basking in a small clearing was an Adder, with the dark V on its head: it was superb.



A small tarmac road runs along one side of the forest, and I've noticed young Grass Snakes squashed on its surface. Now, why so many on such a short piece of road? All I can think of is … it's a warm surface and the young snakes (all about 6-8" long) lay on it to bask, and face the consequences.

As I neared the car, I saw a young grass snake lying on the road belly-up, not a mark on it, that will do for my wildlife collection I said to myself, Fleur my dog, sniffed it and walked on.

I poked it with my finger … nothing, picked it up to put in a plastic specimen bag for easy carrying, when it decided it had had enough of 'playing dead' and wanted to go. I caught its tail just as it was disappearing up my jacket sleeve, and carefully returned it to terra-firma where it quickly vanished, I've also seen several fully grown grass snakes which grow to about 3' 0" or one metre in length, I like all snakes and reptiles, they're absolutely delightful … my wife doesn't think so, and I'm sure there was a hint of a smile when I told her about the dead ones. Oh well, you can't please everybody.

Nick Richardson (07786950684)